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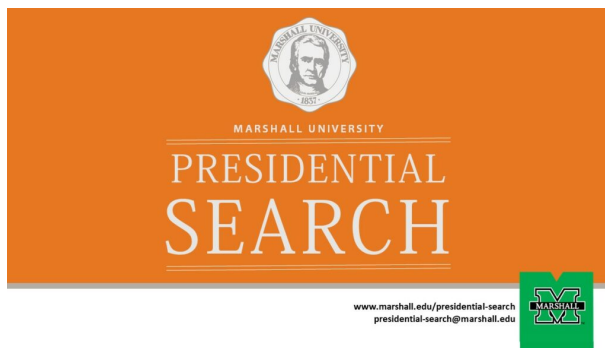
WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University

June 23, 2021

Board of Governors sets presidential search process and timeline

JUNE 23, 2021



Citing the hope to have a new university president named by the end of October, the Marshall University Board of Governors approved a resolution at their meeting June 17, spelling out the search process and timeline.

Board Chairman Patrick Farrell, discussing the resolution after an executive session, said the process will steer the university toward selection of

its 38th president.

“It is the board’s intent to conduct the most inclusive and transparent presidential search that has ever been done at Marshall University,” Farrell said. “We will keep our entire university community and the public informed through multiple media channels including a robust [presidential search website](#), where you can find details about the process and any updates we have along the way.”

President Gilbert announced in April that he will not seek an extension of his contract, which triggered the search.

At the June 17 meeting, board members approved an intent to plan a Bachelor of Science in Psychology degree. A student survey indicated the need for the degree for those students who wish to use their undergraduate degree to pursue certain graduate degrees like medical school. Additionally, the board approved that the Master of Science in Technology Management be moved from the College of Engineering and Computer Sciences to the Lewis College of Business.

Marshall continues to move forward with its aviation program at Yeager Airport. An official opening is planned for Aug. 10 at the Bill Noe Flight School. Board discussions at the meeting included plans to

purchase the school's first multi-engine plane for pilot training, as well as a briefing on talks with West Virginia State University to provide on-campus housing for aviation students who would like an on-campus living experience.

The board received a report from CarrSports, an independent consulting firm commissioned by the university, which said its overall impressions were positive with no signs of mismanagement in the department of athletics. The report recommends nine strategies for growth and expansion including the development of a facilities master plan and strengthened communications with constituents both internally and externally, as well as an improved management structure for revenue-generating capacity.

Interim Athletic Director Jeff O'Malley, in his first meeting since being appointed, told the board the revised timeline for the university's new baseball stadium is that it will open for the 2024 season. The expected price tag is slightly over \$25 million, revised downward approximately \$6 million from the original estimate. Fundraising continues for the project.

The board approved revised 2021-2022 budgets for both athletics and the university, an earnings update and a capital projects list for the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC)

In other action, the board approved officers for the next fiscal year running from July 1 to June 30. Patrick Farrell will remain as board chair; Toney Stroud will serve as vice chair and Bill Smith will serve as secretary. The terms are for one year.

Historian to join Marshall as Visiting Diversity Scholar

JUNE 23, 2021



Marshall will welcome Dr. Cicero Fain III (left) as a new Visiting Diversity Scholar beginning Aug. 2. He will teach one or two courses per semester on African American history and culture, work on a diversity-related project and develop a scholarship opportunity to attract students from underrepresented groups to Marshall, among several other efforts, while coordinating activities with the President's Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, as well as the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Lyceum and The John Deaver Drinko Academy.

Fain, who will be coming back to Marshall for the position after working here previously, is currently a professor of history at the College of Southern Maryland. In 2019, the University of Illinois Press published his book, *Black Huntington: An Appalachian Story*, depicting the African American experience in Huntington from the post-Civil War era through the early part of the 20th century.

Huntington's location on the Ohio River, bordering both Ohio and Kentucky, gave its Black residents an interesting historic perspective because the city is just over the line from a slave state and just far enough away from communities that were far more restrictive to their African American residents. They had unique circumstances in Huntington and used the autonomy they had to move forward, Fain said. He describes that growth as "emblematic" of the American story. They started with nothing and began to build.

His joining Marshall is among the university's many efforts to celebrate diversity on campus.

"Since coming to Marshall in 2016, one of my highest priorities has been to create an open and diverse campus," said Dr. Jerome A. "Jerry" Gilbert, president of Marshall. "Welcoming Dr. Fain back to Marshall as a visiting diversity scholar is another step in the important process of creating a culture that enhances our student experience."

Fain said he remembers sitting on the front porch in Huntington and hearing people talk about the city, which planted a seed of interest and appreciation for African Americans' contributions to the community. He spent eight years researching Huntington's African American history, including his time at the Ohio State University, where he earned his master's and then his doctoral degree. He conducted personal interviews, and researched court and church documents, school yearbooks, newspaper archives, personal diaries and family histories.

His book discusses Huntington's rapidly growing economy and relatively tolerant racial climate, which drew African Americans from across Appalachia and the South to the city. It discusses their relative prosperity and political clout, which they used to confront institutionalized and industrial racism as well as the white embrace of Jim Crow.

"I think it's a story worthy of being told," Fain said upon the book's release.

Ronald D. Eller, author of *Uneven Ground: Appalachia since 1945*, reviewed Fain's book, saying, "This book not only broadens our understanding of the process of modernization in Appalachia by bringing Black Appalachians onto the historical stage, it also casts light on the experience of development in Appalachia's urban places and demonstrates how an essentially rural people shaped their own meaningful communities in a new environment of both opportunity and repression."

Fain has been on the faculty at the College of Southern Maryland since 2011, previously working as a visiting assistant professor at Niagara University in New York; assistant professor at Ohio University, Southern Campus, in Ironton, Ohio, and an assistant professor at Marshall.

To learn more about Fain's book, *Black Huntington: An Appalachian Story*, visit www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/89rgn5gn9780252042591.html.

Society of Yeager Scholars announces 35th class

JUNE 23, 2021

Nine exceptional students have accepted offers to join the Society of Yeager Scholars, the top academic scholarship program at Marshall. The class is the 35th in the program's history and will be known as the Charlie and Alma Slack Class of 2025.

Among the students starting their studies this fall are one of the nation's top-ranked congressional debaters, a future member of the No. 1-ranked Marshall men's soccer team and the first Yeager Scholar whose parent is an alumna of the program. The nine students were selected after a competitive process that included a rigorous application and multiple interviews.

The members of the Charlie and Alma Slack Class of 2025 are as follows:

- Rafael Alfonso, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, plans to double-major in creative writing and computer science with hopes of becoming a game designer. His mother, Belina Alfonso, is a Yeager alumna from the Francis Class of 1992, making him the first second-generation Yeager Scholar. He attended Princess Anne High School in Virginia Beach.
- Olivia Andrew-Vaughan, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, plans to major in political science and international affairs in preparation for attending law school. She attended Skyline High School in Michigan, where she was the co-captain of her school's swim and dive team and water polo team.
- Maggie Gibbs, of Huntington, West Virginia, is a graduate of Huntington St. Joseph's Central Catholic High School. She was a member of her school's VEX robotics team, which competed in the World Championship. She plans to major in biology with plans to attend medical school.
- Evan Green, of West Portsmouth, Ohio, plans to major in multimedia journalism. He is a graduate of Portsmouth West High School. In the last year, he has worked for three different news publications, with more than 100 articles published.
- Luke Jeffrey, of Logan, West Virginia, is a graduate of Logan High School. He plans to major in economics in the Brad D. Smith Schools of Business. He founded and owns an international freelance content creation company.

- Peyton Levi, of Barboursville, West Virginia, plans to double-major in philosophy and music. He is a graduate of Cabell Midland High School. As a high school student, he created a cello studio for children with developmental disabilities.
- Sierra Lutz, of Farmington, Utah, graduated from Farmington High School. She plans to major in biochemistry with hopes of becoming a research scientist. She is an International Science and Engineering Fair finalist and hopes to become active in research at Marshall.
- Nicholas Raffinengo, of Boynton Beach, Florida, plans to double-major in political science and business. A graduate of Oxbridge Academy of the Palm Beaches, he is a seven-time national champion in triathlon and duathlon and has represented Team USA. Nationally, he ranked in the Top 10 for Congressional Debate and plans to join the Thundering Word speech and debate team.
- Garrett Shields, of Milton, West Virginia, is a graduate of Cabell Midland High School. He plans to major in biology with hopes of going to medical school and becoming a pediatric psychiatrist. He will also play soccer for the Marshall men's soccer team, the reigning NCAA D1 national champions.

The Slack class was selected after a virtual Finalist Weekend, which featured 26 students from across the country. The finalists participated in interviews with four different teams, a mock seminar and virtual networking with the current scholars. The first nine students who were offered the scholarship accepted it.

The Yeager scholarship is worth \$143,000. The benefits include full tuition, room and board; books and fees; study in Oxford, England; a laptop computer; and a personal stipend. In return, Yeager Scholars must maintain a 3.5 grade point average, participate in additional academic and leadership enrichment, and perform community service.

The Class of 2025 is named after Charlie and Alma Slack. Charlie Slack, who passed away in 2020, was a longtime participant in the Yeager selection process. He and his wife, Alma, were ardent supporters of the Yeager program. Slack was a Marshall basketball player under legendary coach Cam Henderson from 1952-1956. He was the 22nd overall pick in the 1956 NBA draft, but chose to play for the Goodyear Akron (Ohio) Wingfoots in the National Industrial Basketball League and was an alternate for the 1960 U.S. Olympic Team.

Slack was enshrined in the West Virginia Sports Hall of Fame in 1980 and the Marshall Athletic Hall of Fame in 1985. His number 17 jersey was retired by Marshall in 2000. After his basketball career ended, Slack stayed in the Akron area, where he was an active semifinalist interviewer for prospective Yeager Scholars and an ambassador for Marshall University.

The Yeager scholarship has been in existence at Marshall since it was announced in 1985. The first class, which consisted of 20 students, came to campus in 1987 and graduated in 1991. Since 1991, nearly 300 students have graduated as Yeager Scholars. The program is named for the late Brig. Gen. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager, a West Virginia native, World War II veteran and the first person to fly faster than the speed of sound.

More information about the Society of Yeager Scholars can be found at www.marshall.edu/yeager. Individual photos of the members of the class may be viewed or downloaded at <https://livemarshall->

Two members of the Marshall community named to the State Journal's 40 under 40

JUNE 23, 2021



Zach Garrett, D.S.C., of the Marshall athletic training program and Matthew Christiansen, M.D., M.P.H., of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine have been named to The State Journal's 2021 Generation Next, 40 Under 40.

The 40 Under 40 recognizes young West Virginians succeeding in business, education, government and various other professions. The Generation Next, 40 Under 40 is "the next wave of leaders guiding the state and its communities into the future," according to the publication.

Garrett, program director of the Marshall University athletic training program, currently serves as president and was previously president-elect and secretary of the West Virginia Athletic Trainers' Association (WVATA). During his time as an officer, the association has successfully advocated for legislation passed to help protect the public and improve athlete and patient safety in West Virginia.

"I was surprised when I found out I would be joining this year's class," Garrett said. "There are a ton of great individuals doing a lot of good for our state so to be recognized for the contributions I've made is truly an honor. I hope to continue make a positive change in West Virginia, grow our profession and improve student athlete access to certified athletic trainers."

The native of Clarksburg, West Virginia, is a graduate of Marshall with a bachelor's and two master's degrees from the university. He also holds a Doctor of Health Science degree from Nova Southeastern University. In the fall of 2018, Garrett was selected to participate in the inaugural class of the John Marshall Leadership Fellows program at Marshall.

Christiansen was named the director of the Office of Drug Control Policy for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) in October 2020. He's board certified in both addiction medicine and family medicine and serves as associate professor in the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Department of Family and Community Health, Division of Addiction Sciences where he practices primary care and addiction medicine.

Prior to his appointment to the Office of Drug Control Policy, Christiansen was active in treatment of addiction and dependence across the lifespan. He's lectured across the region on addiction issues from a public health and primary care perspective.

Christiansen holds a Bachelor of Science from Denison University and a Master of Public Health and Doctor of Medicine, both from Marshall. Christiansen also completed his family residency at Marshall, where he served as a Paul Ambrose Health Policy Fellow.

"There is no greater honor than to care for others in need, and I am humbled by the recognition of our efforts," said Christiansen. "I look forward to continuing this work of focusing on prevention of substance use disorder and building recovery capital in West Virginia."

**Join Us for the
40 TOP Virtual Series**
Japanese Investment in WV
**Wednesday, July 21
10 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Speakers Include:

- Hollie Hubbert, West Virginia Department of Economic Development
- Amelia Courts, Ed.D., The Education Alliance
- Natsuki Fukunaga Anderson, Ph.D., Marshall University
- Mami Itamochi, West Virginia Department of Education
- Akiko Praylow, Marshall University

40 TOP
Virtual Series

'Autism Across the Lifespan' conference to take place Sept. 9-10; early bird discount available through July 15

JUNE 23, 2021



Marshall's Autism Training Center, in partnership with the Autism Society of West Virginia, will host a two-day, online event Thursday, Sept. 9, and Friday, Sept. 10.

The conference focuses on topics of support for individuals diagnosed with autism. Day 1 features topics related to childhood; Day 2 features topics most associated with adulthood.

"The Autism Across the Lifespan conference is the largest autism-specific conference in a multi-state region, and attracts parents, educators, individuals diagnosed with autism and others from across and beyond the state," said Dr. Marc Ellison, executive director of the West Virginia Autism Training Center (WV ATC). "We are eager each year to partner with the Autism Society of West Virginia to bring conference attendees the most

up-to-date information presented by speakers well respected in their fields."

The list of speakers includes:

- **Russell Lehmann:** An award-winning and internationally recognized motivational speaker, poet, author and advocate who happens to have autism.
- **Dr. Stephen Shore:** Diagnosed with autism as a child, Shore is a full-time college professor, an internationally renowned consultant and a well-known author on lifespan issues pertinent to education, relationships, employment and self-advocacy.
- **Dr. Cathy Pratt:** Pratt is the director of the Indiana Resource Center for Autism located at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, Indiana's University Center for Excellence in Disabilities.
- **Pam Holland:** Board certified in swallowing and swallowing disorders, Holland is the founder of the Marshall University Interdisciplinary Feeding and Swallowing Clinic, an associate professor, and chair and graduate program director at the university.
- **Annika Lafferty:** An occupational therapist at Best Life Therapy, Lafferty is a well-regarded expert on the topics of sensory regulation and motor strategies.
- **Dr. Traci Tuttle:** Tuttle is a special educator who has directed the educator preparation programs at Muskingum University and is now the Part B Data Coordinator for the WV Department of Education.
- WV ATC employees **Jennifer Fletcher, Dr. Marc Ellison, Brent Fragnoli, Dr. Jim Harris** and **Leigh Saville** will also present sessions on various topics.

Continuing education units are being requested for the American Speech and Hearing Association, social work, Licensed Professional Counselors and West Virginia STARS. Parent stipends are available courtesy of the West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council, and registration discounts exist for students and Marshall University employees. In addition, an “early bird” discount is available for those who register prior to July 16. Specific conference details and registration information may be found at https://www.marshall.edu/atc/2021-autism-across-lifespan/?fbclid=IwAR3ECZ8heoA60zPGI1yAsKMkZWGiVpQVTIXdErnOH542_h2gckQe8KBRkOI.

For further information, persons may e-mail Ellison at ellison13@marshall.edu.

New scholarship for Marshall medical students promotes healthy lifestyles

JUNE 23, 2021



A newly established scholarship at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine by James W. Gigantelli, M.D., and his wife, Lori, reflects their dedication to wellness of both body and mind, as well as values committed to making beneficial choices in diet, exercise and lifestyle.

The Gigantellis relocated in 2019 from Nebraska with their youngest daughter when James Gigantelli was appointed chair of the department of ophthalmology at the School of Medicine. He is a fellowship-trained, board-certified ophthalmologist specializing in oculofacial plastic surgery and leads a growing scope of

ophthalmology services within Marshall Health in both Huntington and Charleston. Lori Gigantelli is a dietitian, an avid runner, a member of several local running groups and practices yoga. For the past 20 years, she raised their children while keeping health and wellness at the forefront of family life. She was previously engaged in a variety of volunteer organizations, including Live Well Omaha Kids and the Nebraska Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, while promoting several public health platforms. Her wellness philosophy embraces a personalized balance of nutrition, physical activity and spiritual health.

“The demands placed on medical students and physicians are rigorous,” James Gigantelli said. “Knowing early in your medical journey how to balance all of the factors impacting your mental and physical wellbeing will benefit your ability to study and practice medicine.”

The Gigantellis established a scholarship through the school’s “Adopt a Medical Student” program, through which a donor “adopts” and supports a student throughout the duration of their four years in medical school.

“Jim and I welcome the opportunity to sustain a medical student by reducing their educational debt and becoming a source of support throughout their four years in medical school,” Lori Gigantelli said. “We are thrilled this scholarship opportunity will extend us further into the Marshall family.”

The *Gigantelli Family Scholarship* is designated for an entering medical student who understands the value of a lifelong commitment to beneficial health choices, including diet, exercise and lifestyle. First preference is given to students with an expressed desire to effect disease prevention and intervention through nutrition. The award is renewable up to three additional years, pending normal academic progress.

James Gigantelli says they enjoy the people and communities of West Virginia as well as the outdoor recreation that abounds in the region. They have four children, who reside in Nebraska, Washington, D.C., and West Virginia.

For more information or to make a gift to the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, please contact Linda Holmes, director of development and alumni affairs, by phone at 304-691-1711 or by e-mail at holmes@marshall.edu, or visit jcesom.marshall.edu/alumni.

Photo: A newly established scholarship at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine has been given by James W. Gigantelli (left), M.D., and his wife, Lori.

RCBI unveils digital marketing service to assist entrepreneurs, new businesses

JUNE 23, 2021



The Robert C. Byrd Institute (RCBI) has launched an initiative to assist entrepreneurs and early-stage businesses in establishing an online presence and e-commerce capabilities.

RCBI Digital Frontiers offers a variety of services, including:

- Logo creation
- Product photography
- E-commerce setup and operation
- Social media account creation
- Tutorials or how to maximize your online presence

“In the digital age, establishing and maintaining a web presence is vital to the success of most companies – especially new ones,” said RCBI’s Evan Nelson, who is leading the new initiative. “Navigating the process can be confusing and overwhelming. RCBI is here to simplify that process for those without a digital presence.”

Nelson said the goal is not to compete with services provided by private industry, rather to give entrepreneurs and small businesses the basic tools they need to begin generating sales so they can afford to hire professionals to take their online presence to the next level.

“We simply offer an affordable option to assist with that all-important first step,” he said.

To learn more about Digital Frontiers, contact Nelson at enelson@rcbi.org or 304-781-1657.

Athletic training students present research at regional convention

JUNE 23, 2021

Students from Marshall presented their research at the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers' Association (MAATA) Annual Meeting and Symposium held virtually May 17-June 17.

MAATA, the professional membership association for certified athletic trainers in the Mid-Atlantic region, accepts student and professional presentations from athletic trainers and students from West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and the District of Columbia. Six Marshall University students were selected to present research and case studies on topics ranging from head injury to rare orthopedic conditions.

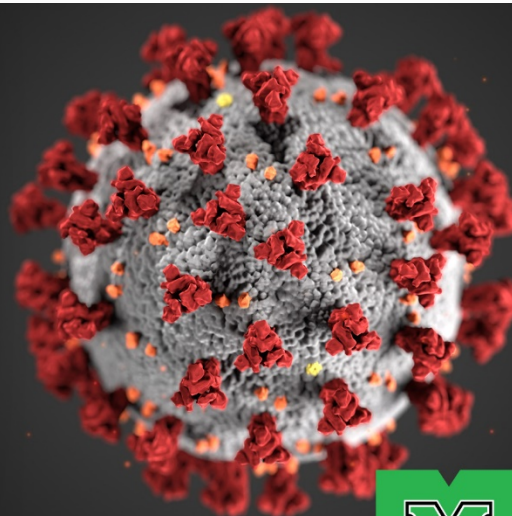
The following students from the Professional Master of Science in Athletic Training program presented research to the convention:

- Kim Hill presented an original research project titled "Frequency and Magnitude of Rotational Impacts in Collegiate Football Players."
- Lauren Montgomery presented an original research project titled "Linear Head Impact Magnitudes Across American Football Positions."
- Gary Gilbert presented a case study titled "Reverse Total Shoulder with Ulnar and Median Nerve Neuropathy."
- Brittany Hensley presented a case study titled "Acute Kidney Failure in a Collegiate Football Athlete."
- Emily Fankhanel presented a case study titled "Double Ligament Repair of MCL and PCL."
- Andrew Quinlan presented a case study titled "Bipartite Talus: A Case Study."

For additional information about the Marshall University athletic training program, please contact Zach Garrett, D.H.Sc., ATC by e-mail at garrett46@marshall.edu or visit www.marshall.edu/athletic-training.

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www.marshall.edu/coronavirus



For additional information, visit:
www.cdc.gov



The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall* will be distributed June 30, 2021. Please send items for consideration to WAMnewsletter@marshall.edu by 5 p.m. Monday, June 28, 2021.

To read the content of this newsletter online, please click on the following link:
www.marshall.edu/wamnewsletter/June-23-2021.